

The Belle Glade Herald

Volume 4; Number 19.

Belle Glade, Palm Beach County, Florida, Monday, November 29, 1943

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Palm Beach One Of Thirty-six Counties In 16 States To Win Army "A" Award

PROGRAM

E. F. Froelich, Chairman County U. S. D. A. War Board—calls meeting to order and turns over to Sam Chastain, Master of Ceremonies.

Singing of National Anthem, led by Roscoe Braddock with Morristown Field Band, accompanying.

Invocation, Rev. Jay Jameson, Chaplain Everglades Post No. 20 American Legion.

Chairman Chastain announces purpose of meeting introducing H. G. Clayton, State Chairman U. S. D. A. War Board, who presents Citation of War Food Administrator Marvin Jones, which is received by

L. L. Stuckey, Pioneer Farmer.

Introduction of Official Guests.

Captain Norman Browne, U. S. Army, Subsistence Division, Quartermaster Corps presents Army "A" Flag.

Hoisting of Army "A" Flag.

Introduction by L. L. Stuckey of Governor Spessard L. Holland, who makes official acceptance of Flag for State, County and farmers.

National Anthem.

PIONEER FARMERS REPRESENTING COMMUNITIES OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

L. V. Mineas	Jupiter
E. F. Froelich	West Palm Beach
W. J. Adams	Lake Worth
J. J. Lamb	Boca Raton
S. E. O'Neal	Delray
I. I. Tatton	Lake Harbor
M. D. Hardy	South Bay
Arthur Wells	Beaumont
Mrs. Ruth Wedgeworth	Belle Glade
L. L. Stuckey	Pahokee
Sam Chastain	Canal Point

The County Commission

180 Bushels Corn From Acre In 12 Months 'Aint Hay'

Birds and Bud Worms As Well As Proper Drying Are Important

By Roy A. Bair

One acre of the Everglades Experiment Station produced 4.4 measures 180 bushels of corn during the twelve month period ending last August. L. Corn planted September 1 yielded 78 bushels in January. The land was then plowed, disked, twice and planted March 1. This planting yielded 102 bushels.

These excellent yields have been obtained with a new variety known as "Big Joe" which was obtained by crossing a Puerto Rican variety ("Mayorbel") with Florida 690, and also with white and yellow Tuxpan. Since the Mayorbel variety was created by crossing several of

highest yielding strains from isolated sections of Puerto Rico, the variety is not constant as to type and color. In general it tends toward a yellowish, hard dent. Considerable confidence is justified in this variety to withstand the weather extremes of this area, since this variety has yielded well in both an extremely wet season, and in one which was very dry. During the spring of 1942, when June rains totaled twenty-four inches, this variety yielded 102 bushels in the following dry fall, 78 bushels.

Although the corn has been planted in the past in rows 36 inches apart in the row, other rates of planting are being investigated. If corn is to be grown on a large scale in the Everglades, it will have to be adapted to the machine, now used in the mid-west for planting, cultivating and harvesting. The yields described above were obtained with 600 pounds of

Continued on page 4



Water Control Rather Than Drainage Is Problem Of Glades

This article is made of excerpts from a paper by Mr. Bestor before the Florida Soil Science Society. Its purpose is to afford some historical and technical facts about water control in the Glades. The Editor recommends a careful perusal of Mr. Bestor's paper in full as printed in the current report of the Florida Soil Science Society.

By H. A. Bestor
All advantages in the Everglades today are due, generally, to the inhabitation of the territory and, in fact, all investments of capital and effort in South Florida are a direct result of having relieved the Everglades of its original bondage by water. It is easy to visualize what these developments have done to the welfare of the land and to our Nation. The returns in general taxes alone have many times over paid for all conceivable costs of reclamation. As a matter of fact, when all such economic factors are taken into account, reclamation costs have been ridiculously low and it makes one wonder if the

people of Florida fully appreciate the tremendous asset they have in the Everglades.

Present progress is the direct result of activities during the early years. In 1911, Pioneer project in its infancy and subject to mistakes common to all first endeavors. At least, we know that we are facing serious, virtually "overdrained" areas. Drainage District, various Sub-Drainage Districts, Unit Areas and owners of individual tracts have disked and ditched land and installed pumping plants to obtain access to and disposal of water in Lake Okeechobee or the Artificial Canals of the Everglades.

Examining Engineers have emphatically agreed that the reclamation of the Everglades involved two major factors: first, that the flood waters of the northern high land watershed

should be controlled through its collection and regulation in Lake Okeechobee, as a storage reservoir, with outlet channels to dispose of water to the ocean, so as to prevent water from overflowing into the lower basin area to the south; and secondly, that this could then be handled by ditching by considering only the precipitations (rainfall) on the land itself.

Early agricultural efforts unsuccessfully attempted to drain lands by gravity toward Artificial Canals, but satisfactory water control requires pumping.

Commonly, now, through the courage of Everglades Drainage District, various Sub-Drainage Districts, Unit Areas and owners of individual tracts have disked and ditched land and installed pumping plants to obtain access to and disposal of water in Lake Okeechobee or the Artificial Canals of the Everglades.

These pictures the principles and describes the existing general scheme of reclamation. It seems practical, yet emphasizes drainage rather than water control and lacks completeness of detail.

Reclamation of Unit Areas (Continued on page 3)

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Vast Lake Okeechobee Farming Region, through the years has earned an enviable reputation for production of green vegetables,

AND WHEREAS, This particular region, being an integral part of Palm Beach County's agricultural industry, which in recent days has been recognized by the War Food Administration for supreme effort in producing foodstuffs for an America at war,

AND WHEREAS, Palm Beach County produced \$22,000,000 in vegetables from plantings of 84,000 acres during the 1942-43 season, thereby earning the United States Department of Agriculture "A" Award for Agricultural Achievement.

AND WHEREAS, Said award will be presented in special ceremonies at Belle Glade on Monday morning, November 29, 1943, beginning at 10 o'clock in the morning.

NOW THEREFORE, We, the mayors of Pahokee, Belle Glade and South Bay, do declare the hours of 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. on that day as "Palm Beach County Army "A" Award Day," and ask that all business houses close for the ceremony.

WHEREAS, This the 24th Day of November, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Three.

W. M. JEFFRIES

Mayor, South Bay, Fla.

J. K. BAKER

Mayor, Belle Glade, Fla.

O. B. McCLEURE

Mayor, Pahokee, Fla.

Old Timers Provided Many Exciting Tales

REAL START OF CIVILIZATION CAME FROM GREAT LURE OF LAKE FISHING

By Dick LeFils

Thirty-five years ago white men began winding their way down the Kissimmee river in slow-traveling boats, coming from the lakes around Kissimmee. They were mostly local fishermen, starting new territory in which to drag their snares.

Coming into Lake Okeechobee at that time, they found one of the largest bodies of fresh water in the boundaries of the United States, and later found it to be thickly stocked with the finest channel catfish in the country. This proved to be a fisherman's paradise.

Kissimmee, being the closest supplybase and having to travel up one of the crookedest rivers in the south, it took several years for the people to start setting traps on the shores of the lake. This was long before any drainage canals of the Everglades, lying to the south, had been started.

Practically all of the Everglades known to us today were at that time under water. There were only ridges and islands bordering the lake, that stayed above water.

As word got around by the more or less grapevine system of communication people started coming on boats down the river and overland, by ox teams, to a place by the name of Taino, this being the only place near the lake where at that time there was a few Indian shacks.

Several years later the name was changed to Okeechobee. There was no railroad running into the town of Taino at that time, so there was no boat service to and from Kissimmee, hauling down supplies and carrying back fish, alligator skins and coon hides.

The people that came down into this country at that time did not settle here with the intentions of farming. They came for the lure of the lake, the law and to make themselves a little "likker" on the side; not knowing that such black looking skin would raise anything.

Furthermore, they apparently did not care whether they raised anything or not. Their ambition was to just eat enough fish to keep the boat bringing in

a few sacks of sugar and cornmeal to keep up their Christmas spirit.

With all due respect to the old-time settlers, they were a fine bunch of people. They feared no one. If one told you he was going to kill you, he generally kept his word.

In the year of 1907, the state started a drainage project. The Caloosahatchee river was opened up by digging a three-mile canal on the east side of the lake running into the river which led to the west coast of Florida, at Ft. Myers.

That, giving the lake a natural outlet for its surplus water and a shorter distance to the state's base, the boats started running to Ft. Myers instead of Kissimmee.

More people began coming into the lake area and the fishing industry was getting larger all the while. In fact, it has been said by some of the old timers of this country that the lake Okeechobee cat fishing put Ft. Myers on the map.

The Ft. Lauderdale canal was also started in the year 1907 and opened in the year 1912 thus allowing another drainage canal from the lake and helped drain the Everglades. That allowed another route of transportation.

There is a story that goes along with the first boatload of fish that went down the Lauderdale canal. The owner was unable to sell them in Lauderdale. Being close to Christmas time, he went to Miami, trying to find a market. He was unable to find a customer, so he loaded his 5,000 pound load. Finally he met a man who was the owner of a joint business of fish and liquor.

The captain of the fishboat traded his fish for liquor. The boat was about to pull away when the force of wind blew the boat into the side of Miami. During their conversation the captain gave the policeman a drink of his cargo and it took the captain two days to get rid of the police.

The police force of Miami at that time consisted of about (Continued on page 3)

TO THE GOVERNOR AND MRS. HOLLAND AND OTHER VISITORS

Our Communities are glad to have you visit this "Great Winter Vegetable Producing Center" and especially on such an occasion.

We feel that the Glades' participation in the production of FOODSTUFFS as a part of Palm Beach County's effort towards the War is signalized by having the Awards presented in our midst, and we are grateful.

If our hospitality lacks one whit, it will be due to the unusualness of the occasion. We thank you for coming and your participation. Hurry back.

J. K. BAKER,
Mayor, Belle Glade
O. B. McCLEURE,
Mayor, Pahokee
W. M. JEFFRIES,
Mayor, South Bay



L. L. Stuckey of Pahokee has been selected by the Committee as a representative pioneer farmer to receive the award on behalf of the County.

In support of this selection the Committee quotes from an article Howard Sharp prepared on the historical facts about communities in the Glades and in 1900 William Stuckey had bought Oliver Miller's fish camp. The Millers, father and two sons, had come up from Ft. Myers, and established camp at several points on the lake. "Miller's Ditch," later "Stuckey's Ditch," was a name soon given to the present Canal Point. All of the Bacons have left this region but the Stuckey families are still here, the oldest pioneers of East Beach."



Governor SPESSARD HOLLAND radically changed plans previously made in order to come to Belle Glade to officially accept the Army "A" pennant for Agricultural Achievement to be given to the County. Mrs. Holland will very likely accompany the Governor here.

Immediately after the Civic Clubs luncheon the Governor will hasten to Winter Haven where he will join an annual hunting party.

Finishing Beef Cattle Profitable In Glades

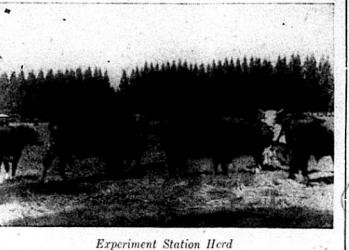
By R. W. Kidder

Twelve years ago the first rainfall, mild climate, fertile soil and sub-tropical location of Devon cattle arrived at the Everglades Experiment Station. From that first successful attempt to keep cattle on the Everglades muck soils, the beef cattle industry of Palm Beach County and the adjoining territory has grown to its present major proportions in which several thousand head are fattened each year.

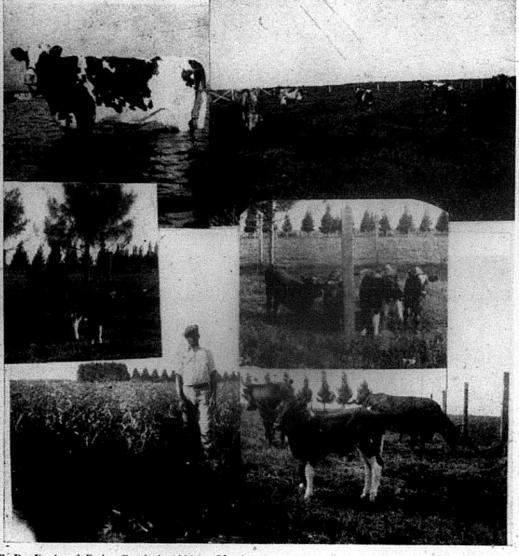
The possibilities of this region for grass production are unique. With its high annual

rainfall, mild climate, fertile soil and sub-tropical location grass production excels that of all other regions of the United States. Yield in terms of animal gains per acre have reached almost to the ton mark. One acre of St. Augustine grass last year produced 1990 pounds of beef with young growing animals receiving one pound of tonned meal pellets per day.

Devon cattle have experienced some of the hazards of the first few years making the production of cattle more successful



Experiment Station Herd



TOP—Beef and Dairy Cattle in 1920 at Okeelanta
MIDDLE—Grade Calves at Experiment Station
BOTTOM—Para grass field

than was thought possible at first. It has been found that aluminum when added to the diet, rather than the opposite, has produced almost unforeseen benefits in the health, vigor and growth of the cattle. Although aluminum is the most prevalent element in the earth's crust, there appears to be a deficiency of aluminum in the forages which grow on this muck soil. The amount of protein of the dry matter is also.

There are indications that this aluminum deficiency extends into some of the sandy soils of Southern Florida.

All of the pure bred Devon bulls produced in this herd are sold to Florida cattlemen for breeding purposes. The other herds of registered Devons have been established in this state during the past twelve

years and still the demand for Devon bulls exceeds the supply of about 125 bulls available at this time.

Since the grasses grow more slowly in winter than in summer, the carrying capacity per acre is much greater during the summer months. However, the cattle make better gains and are in better condition during the winter months. For this reason so much emphasis has been placed on the production of feeds which will be available during the winter. These include temporary pastures of oats, barley, rye or ryegrass and cold resistant varieties of grasses such as some of the elmers.

Sugarcane makes an excellent feed for cattle during the winter months but must be cut by hand and put through an ensilage cutter and fed in troughs. It is a good feed and when supplemented with commercial meal or another protein supplement for best results. Yields of 40 to 50 tons per acre are expected and some yields up to 70 tons

Kok-saghyz or Rubber Plant Has Very High Yield Grown Here

By Roy A. Bair

Tests conducted by the Everglades Experiment Station with the Russian starch-like plant, known as Kok-saghyz, have shown that this plant will produce more high quality rubber per acre and do it more quickly than any other plant yet tested in this country. Moreover, Kok-saghyz yields more rubber in the Everglades than it does anywhere else in the United States, or even in Russia where a substantial proportion of tire production is from Kok-saghyz rubber.

These facts plus the discovery

that Kok-saghyz must be

burned to a cinder before

it can be used as a

rubber source, have led to

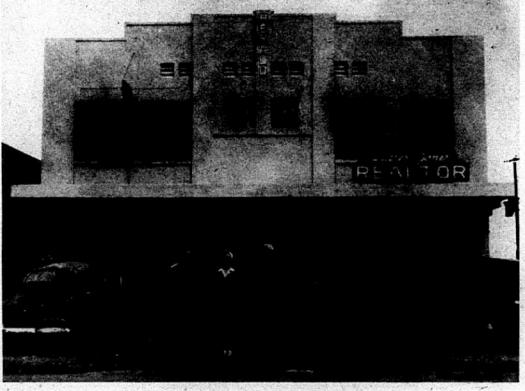
more extensive tests this season by the Bureau of Plant Industry and by the Forest Service.

Beginning in the Spring of 1942, an acre of Kok-saghyz was grown at the Experiment Station at Belle Glade, and planting was started in the swampy land.

Workers, with the cooperation of W. B. Granger and his assistant Cliff Green, established a Kok-saghyz nursery from which various oints in the North were supplied in total of three thousand pounds of seed. Because seed of Kok-saghyz must be "vernacularized" or stored wet for two weeks at near freezing temperatures before planting, the five acre nursery would not have been possible without the cooperation of Mrs. Ruth Wedgeworth who donated space for the treatment rubber must be incorporated in the precooling plant

at her packing house.

After the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, located at Philadelphia, Pa., reported that tests made on several hundred plants in the Everglades region from the Everglades Experiment Station revealed more rubber than had been produced in any other region, two Federal Bureaus have located investigators in the region to carry on further research. Mr. G. F. Erambert of the Forest Service has arranged to plant twenty acres of Kok-saghyz on land belonging to E. M. Van Landingham. Mr. Erambert will investigate the possibility of using machinery for large scale production. The Bureau of Plant Industry has arranged a six months leave of absence for Dr. Lester J. Poehlman, a plant breeder, who will cooperate with the local Experiment Station in the selection of higher yielding plants.



95 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

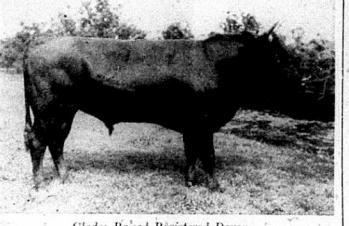
The credit for the mechanical part in issuing a 20 page Special by a County newspaper goes to the two men above:

John F. Newton, (left) 74 years of age with 55 years experience in a printing shop; He has been a member of the Typographical Union during the entire time.

Clarence J. Aspey, 50 years of age, with 40 years experience and as a member of the Union, Foreman of Mechanical end of the shop.

Mrs. Florence Smith, Office Manager and editor of "Fight and Write."

The building in the background is the home of THE HERALD.



Glades Raised Registered Devon

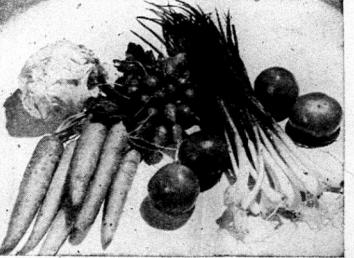
AN ARMY MARCHES ON ITS BELLY

(Ventre)

...., and Palm Beach County ranks at the top in keeping that belly well filled with fresh vegetables.

First in production of fresh vegetables in the United States is a record of which to be proud. It is a tribute to the hard and unremitting toil, the vision and the refusal to be daunted by obstacles of Palm Beach County's farmers. In wartime this record is of greater importance for food is a vital weapon of war.

In winning the Army "A" Award for Agricultural Achieve-



ment, Palm Beach County's producers gain new glory.

We're proud to be fellow cit-



izens of these Palm Beach countians . . . the kind of people who are bringing victory to our side in this war.



WASTE IN WAR IS A CRIME DON'T WASTE ELECTRICITY JUST BECAUSE IT'S STILL CHEAP

Poultry And Dairying Thrive With Sand Land Farming

By M. U. "Red" Mounts
In discussing the agricultural development of Palm Beach County, the layout is too often mentioned, such as the Everglades section and the remarkable expansion in that section. It is true that the black soil, the economical production and the large shipments from the muck land do engage our interest quickly but the eastern section of the county, which has also had its development and holds distinct advantages worthy of consideration by all of those interested in farming.

The pioneer farming efforts in our country were of course located along the coast. We are all familiar with the rise and fall of the coastal agriculture industry, once a major economical factor in our country but now limited to the plantings of O. R. Winchester at Boynton. The oldest farming sections in the county are very likely the fields still in production in Hypoluxo and between Delray Beach and Boca Raton. These, which have mock spots are out of our present Federal Hillway and along Lake Worth and the Inland Waterway. These areas still produce excellent crops of peppers, eggplants, lime beans, and squash after over forty years of production.

The major vegetable production area of eastern Palm Beach County is along the Range Line Canal about 12 miles east of the coast extending from the West Palm Beach Canal to the Hillsboro. The vast majority of this land is the Lake Worth



Temporary installation

Drainage District and enjoys the advantage of available water control. In addition, this area has a distinct favorable temperature record that has been adequately demonstrated during many cold periods and thoroughly substantiated by weather bureau records. We believe we can state without contradiction that in periods of low temperature, the eastern part of Palm Beach County is the warmest spot on this isle.

This is relatively new farming section having been developed in the last twelve years. Last season about 10,000 acres were planted to vegetables in the Lake Worth Drainage District and it is expected that this year will be even larger. Crops produced in this area are green beans, lima beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash and an occasional small acreage of cucumbers. Most all of this production is marketed at the State Farmers Market in Pompano and at the Boynton Produce Market in Boynton Beach. The area enjoys a reputation for excellent quality products and for reliable profitable production.

The dairy industry of Palm Beach County is largely centered in the sand land section.

One of the state's oldest purchased herds and one of the first

in the state is Penhook Plantations at Jupiter. Like

the main vegetable area, the

largest dairy section is in the

Lake Worth Drainage District

along the Military Trail from

West Palm Beach to Delray

Beach. According to the 1940

census the dairies of Palm Beach County produce over a half million dollars worth of dairy products. At that time we had approximately 3,500 cows in the county and now the county must have over 4,000 in production.

A major agricultural enterprise of our county is the production of ornamentals. These nurseries have catered to the Palm Beach trade for years. Our nurseries have shipped asparagus ferns to the north for many years.

Our herds are mostly high grade Jerseys and

mostly Holsteins with a very few

Gurnseys with a very few Hol-

steins.

Like all other agricultural enter-

prises in Palm Beach County

the poultry industry has ex-

panded. Most of our poultry

plants are adjacent to urban town sections. Feed men and deal-

ers less widely known fruits.

We have the climate and the soil

for this production and fully ex-

pect to see in the next ten years

a major increase in these fruits

and now the county must have

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